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Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 185503

EXDIS GENEVA FOR AMB YOUNG FROM UNA

FOL RPT JIDDA 5345 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO ADDIS ABABA, DJIBOUTI, MOGADISCIO, KHARTOUM & LONDON DTD 20 JUL 78

QUOTE: S E C R E T JIDDA 5345
EXDIS
E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, SA, SO, ET
SUBJ: UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM'S MEETING WITH FONMIN SAUD - HORN OF AFRICA

1. FOLLOWING TRIP TO SOUTH ASIA, UNDER SECRETARY NEWSOM HELD CONSULTATIONS WITH SAUDI FONMIN IN JIDDA ON JULY 18. MR NEWSOM TOLD PRINCE SAUD THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS INTERESTED IN THE CLOSEST POSSIBLE CONSULTATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA ON THE HORN OF AFRICA. HE STRESSED THAT WE WANTED NOT JUST CONVERSATION BUT MEANINGFUL EXCHANGE. ANY ADVICE THAT SAG HAS TO GIVE ON THE HORN WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED. THE U.S. HAS BEEN ON VERGE OF SENDING A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM TO SOMALIA. THE SOMALIS HAVE CONTINUED THEIR PROVOCATIVE
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ACTION IN THE OGADEN AND NOT ONLY DOES THIS CONTINUE TO PROVIDE A PRETEXT FOR CUBAN TROOPS IN ETHIOPIA BUT ANY RISK THAT U.S. PERSONNEL MIGHT BE DRAWN INTO COMBAT SITUATIONS PRESENTS THE U.S. GOVERNMENT WITH SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

2. MR NEWSOM WENT ON TO SAY THAT THE MAJOR U.S. OBJECTIVE IN AFRICA IS TO DRY UP AND ELIMINATE SITUATIONS AND

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CIRCUMSTANCES THAT GIVE JUSTIFICATION FOR ANY COUNTRY SUCH AS ANGOLA AND ETHIOPIA, TO KEEP CUBAN TROOPS ON ITS SOIL. WE WOULD LIKE TO HELP ALSO IN SOMALIA. HOWEVER, THERE IS EVERY INDICATION CONFIRMED BY INTELLIGENCE THAT THE SOMALIS ARE ACTIVE IN SUPPORTING REBELS IN ETHIOPIA AND MAY BE INVOLVED IN OPERATIONS TO CUT THE RAILWAY FROM DJIBOUTI TO ADDIS ABABA. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO SEND A MILITARY SURVEY TEAM. WE REALIZE THE IMPERATIVE FOR A SOMALI LEADER TO SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE OGADENIS. BUT WE WOULD LIKE TO KNOW IF THERE IS POSSI-BILITY THAT SIAD BARRE CAN BE PERSUADED TO BACK OFF FROM THE OGADEN SO THAT WE CAN PROCEED WITH OUR MILITARY SURVEY MISSION.

3. PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT WE WERE TELLING THE SOMALIS THE SAME THING AS THE RUSSIANS: STOP YOUR ACTIVITIES IN THE OGADEN AND THERE WILL BE NO REASON FOR THE ETHIOPIANS TO ATTACK. PRINCE SAUD WENT ON TO SAY THAT U.S. SHOULD DO SOMETHING TO BOLSTER SIAD BARRE AT HOME WITHOUT A PRE-CONDITION. U.S. IS CURRENTLY TELLING HIM THAT IF HE MAKES A PROMISE ABOUT THE FUTURE OF OGADEN AND KENYA, U.S. WILL THEN SUPPLY AID. SAUD COUNSELED THAT WE SUPPLY AID FIRST AND THEN ASK HIM TO GIVE ASSURANCES ON OGADEN AND KENYA. U.S. WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE BETTER ABLE TO TALK TO HIM AGAINST THE BACKGROUND OF A POSITIVE RESPONSE TO HIS REQUEST FOR U.S. AID.

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4. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE NEED FOR AID, PRINCE SAUD SAID THAT THE INTERNAL SITUATION IN SOMALIA WAS UNSTABLE. THE MILITARY IS UNHAPPY BECAUSE THEY FEEL THAT BARRE TRICKED THEM. HE PROMISED THEM WESTERN HELP WHICH DID NOT MATERIALIZE. AS FOR KENYA, EVERYTHING THAT THE U.S. HAS REQUIRED ON ASSURANCES HAS BEEN GIVEN, BUT KENYANS WILL NOT RESPOND. THEN SAUD ADDED THAT SAUDI ARABIA WAS CONCERNED ABOUT THE SITUATION IN KENYA. IN SAUDI OPINION, WHEN KENYATTA LEAVES THE SCENE, KENYA WILL BE CLOSER TO ETHIOPIA AND THE USSR THAN TO U.S.
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